



# Monitor



## Habitats

Pelagic, open ocean

Artificial reef

## Key Species

Amberjack

Black sea bass

Red barbiar

Scad

Corals

Sea anemones

Dolphin

Sand tiger shark

Sea urchins

## Monitor National Marine

**Sanctuary** was designated the nation's first national marine sanctuary on January

30, 1975. The site was the wreck of the USS

*Monitor*, a Civil War vessel that lies off the

coast of North Carolina. The *Monitor* was

the prototype for a class of U.S. Civil War

ironclad, turreted warships that

significantly altered both naval technology

and marine architecture in the nineteenth

century. Designed by the Swedish engineer

John Ericsson, the vessel contained all of

the emerging innovations that

revolutionized warfare at sea. The *Monitor*

was constructed in a mere

110 days.

## Research Activities

In recent years a dramatic increase in the rate of deterioration of the *Monitor* has been documented. Research activities will continue as NOAA seeks solutions to the current crisis.

Possible solutions include stabilization of the hull and recovery of selected components of the *Monitor*, including the engines and turret. Intensive historical research into the construction of these components has been carried out and NOAA has developed a draft preservation plan entitled *Charting a New Course for the Monitor* that identifies options for prolonging the life of the *Monitor*.

Sanctuary staff continues to provide support to private researchers through the *Monitor* Collection, which includes historical information as well as visual documentation of the wreck.

## Education Activities

Because of the *Monitor*'s remote location, the majority of the American public cannot visit the site. An active education program includes posters, brochures, a paper model, an activities report, and public presentations designed to bring the *Monitor* to the public.



## Location

16 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina

Protected Area  
1-square mile

Designation  
January 1975

## Address

The Mariner's Museum  
100 Museum Drive  
Newport News, VA 23606

## Communication

Tel: (757) 599-3122

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## E-mail:

[monitor@noaa.gov](mailto:monitor@noaa.gov)

## Web Page:

[monitor.nos.noaa.gov](http://monitor.nos.noaa.gov)

Above: 1st battle of ironclad vessels; left to right: amberjack living in the wreck; Monitor's anchor; line drawing of a brass signal lantern, 1st artifact recover from the Monitor

